

A List of Erotylidae collected by EDWARD M. JANSON, in the vicinity of Santo Domingo, Chontales, Nicaragua, with Descriptions of new Genera and Species: by G. R. CROTCH, M.A.

MEGALODACNE.

(Type, *Ips. fasciata*, F.)

I have renamed the genus *Dacne* of Lacordaire, retaining that name in the sense it was originally given. The present genus is very homogeneous.

Sexual characters are here visible, the anterior or posterior tibiae being curved, and sometimes crenulated; in *M. heros* the last ventral segment is sharply carinate; in all the prosternum is deeply punctured.

1. *Megalodacne quadriguttata*, Oliv. Enc. Meth. vi., 434 (*Erotylus*) (1791) - *Dacne quadriguttatus*, Lac. Mon. Erot., p. 70 (1842) - *Dacne multifida*, Lac. Mon. Erot., p. 70, ♀, var. (1842) - *Dacne brasiliensis*, Lac. Mon. Erot., p. 70, var. (1842).

Elongata, nigra, nitida, thorace antice trisinuato (praesertim in mas.), sparse obsoleteque punctato, lateribus late incrassatis, punctis majoribus utrinque subseriatim dispositis; elytris remote ac grosse striato-punctatis, interstitiis sublaevibus; corpore subtus sublaevi, segmentorum lateribus fortiter punctatis. L. c. $10\frac{1}{2}$ -12 lin.

♂. tibiis posticis incurvis, intus remote crenulatis, prosterno fortiter punctato.

♀. thorace brevior.

"Bred from fungus;" the striae are less strongly punctured than in the specimens from Cayenne and the Amazons.

PSELAPHACUS. Perch. Gen. Ins. Livr. 4, No. 6 (1835).

(Type *P. nigropunctatus*, Perch.)

This is one of the few sharply defined genera in the

family, by the square emargination of the clypeus; it is confined to Mexico, and Central and South America.

The species are very embarrassing, as the variation of colour is very great; further material is required to decide some of the questions.

The species have a wide range, several occurring from the Amazons through Cayenne to Ecuador and Bolivia.

2. *Pselaphacus distortus*, *sp. nov.*

P. curvipedis simillimus, thorace crebrius punctato, fasciis elytrorum (præsertim ultima) integris, vel vix denticulatis. L. c. 6-7½ lin.

Mexico. Coll. Crotch.

The Nicaraguan specimens differ from the Mexican in having the interstices scarcely punctulate, and the two medial fasciæ decidedly denticulate.

3. *Pselaphacus vitticollis*, *sp. nov.*

P. dentato affinis, thorace fulvo, margine tenui, vitta discoidali, punctoque utrinque nigris; elytris basi nigra, annulo apicali incompleta. L. c. 5½-6 lin.

N. Granada. Coll. Crotch (Reiche, Chevrolat).

The Nicaraguan specimens differ from those from New Granada in that the central vitta of the thorax is reduced to a basal triangle.

4. *Pselaphacus signatus*, Guer. Rev. Zool. 1841, p. 158.

Also found in Cayenne, Amazons, Columbia, Ecuador (*Buckley*), and Bolivia.

Syn.: *P. signatipennis*, Lac. Mon. Erot., p. 84 (1842).

5. *Pselaphacus Nicaraguae*, *sp. nov.*

Oblongus, subparallelus, niger, nitidus, capite sat crebre punctato; thorace quadrato, lateribus rotundatis, ante angulos posticos angulos sinuatis, parce subtiliter punctato, punctorum majorum seriebus dorsalibus 2; scutello nigro, lævi: elytris nigris, subtilissime parce punctulatis, leviter

punctato-striatis, striis postice obsoletis, macula humerali ochracea (punctis 2 nigris rotundatis includente), alteraque transverse bilobata apicem versus; corpore subtus fere lævi. L. c. 6 lin.

This is the first species of this section of the genus found north of Panama, it is very like the others in colouring.

MEGISCHYRUS. *Gen. nov.*

(Type *Erot. undatus*, Oliv.)

The strongly keeled prosternum and loosely jointed club of the antennæ give this section some title to generic rank; the species also have a strong common *facies*. They are found in South and Central America, and in Mexico.

6. *Megischyrus Nicaraguæ*, *sp. nov.*

M. mexicanæ proximus, et forte varietas geographica; differt forma paulo convexiore brevioraque, elytris minus opacis, evidentius punctato-striatis, regione subapicali laud rufo-limbato. L. c. 8 lin.

7. *Megischyrus sanguinolentus*, Lac. Mon. Erot. p. 97 - *Ischyrus* - (1842).

This species was described from Mexican specimens, but not having seen any individuals from that country, I am unable to say if the Chontales representatives differ in any minute points.

8. *Megischyrus discipennis*, Lac. Mon. Erot., p. 101 - *Ischyrus* - (1842).

Described from Mexico; the Chontales specimens accord perfectly with the description.

ISCHYRUS, Lac. Mon. Erot., p. 89 (1842).

(Type *Erot. quadripunctatus*, Oliv.)

This genus, first indicated by Chevrolat in 1836, is now tolerably homogeneous, only the first group being at all exceptional. The coarsely granulated eyes distinguish it from all the other New World genera except *Epytus*.* The species are numerous and very closely allied. The thorax is rarely margined behind except just round the posterior angles.

9. *Ischyru8 elegantulus*, Lac. Mon. Erot., p. 121 (1842).

Coincides with my specimens from New Granada.

10. *Ischyru8 graphicus*, Lac. Mon. Erot., p. 125 (1842).

These, as well as the Mexican exponents of this species, appear to be a southern form of *I. quadripunctatus* with the head more or less rufous.

11. *Ischyru8 tripunctatus*, *sp. nov.*

Oblongus, postice angustior, capite nigro, parce sat profunde punctato, thorace rufo-testaceo, lateribus antice rotundatis, punctis discoidalibus 3 nigris; scutello nigro lævi; elytris fulvo-testaceis, vix punctulatis, leviter punctato-striatis, fasciis 2 communibus nigris, postice denticulatis (1 basali, 1 pone medium) marginem haud attingentibus; corpore subtus punctulato, rufo-testaceo, epipleuris elytrorum, lateribus pectoris, pedibusque nigris. L. c. $3\frac{1}{2}$ lin.

MYCOTRETUS, Lac. Mon. Erot., p. 132 (1842).

(Type — ?)

Distinct by the pentagonal or rounded mentum, antennæ

* *Epytus*, Dej. Cat. Ed. 3, p. 452 (1837) [Type *Erot. violaceus*, Sturm. Cat., p. 82, Table iv., fig. 38 (1826)] = *Oocygnus*, Hope, Rev. Zool, 1841, p. 113.—Lac. Mon. Erot., p. 194 (1842).

with a 4-jointed club, and finely granulated eyes. The thorax is margined at the base.

Lacordaire has divided this genus into two sections according to the shape of the mentum, but I find this very difficult to ascertain: he is certainly in error in many cases.

12. *Mycotretus Savignyi*, Lac. Mon. Erot., p. 156 (1842).

Very near *M. Lesucuri*, but the interstitial punctuation faint, and the legs red.

The single specimen before me accords entirely with those in my collection from Columbia (Reiche, Chevrolat).

13. *Mycotretus pygmaeus*, Lac. Mon. Erot., p. 156 (1842).

Sparingly and rather coarsely punctate; I have examples from Cayenne (Lacordaire), Bahia, and Bogota.

14. *Mycotretus Chontalesi*, *sp. nov.*

Ovatus, ochraceus, nitidus, antennis sat elongatis, clava nigra, distincte tri-articulata; capite distincte punctato, antice leviter impresso; thorace parce punctulato, lateribus rotundatis, basi utrinque sinuato, leviter foveolato punctatoque; scutello punctulato; elytris albidis, lævibus, punctato-striatis, singulis maculis 2 oblongis parallelis in quartam basalem, maculaque communi triangulari (antice paulo producta) nigris. L. c. $2\frac{1}{4}$ lin.

Allied to *M. lepidus*.

AEGITHUS, Fab. Syst. El. II., p. 9 (1801).

(Type *Cocc. surinamensis*, Linn.)

Distinguished by the very small thorax, deeply emarginate in front and obliquely truncate on either side at the base. The elytral punctuation is gemellate or often absent.

15. *Aegithus quadrinotatus*, Chevr. Col. Mex. Cent. 1., fasc. 4 (1834) - Lac. Mon. Erot., p. 283 (1842) - *Aegithus clathratus*, Lac. Mon. Erot., p. 282 (1842).

Ovatus, ater, elytris convexis, vix striato-punctatis, testaceo-flavescentibus, sutura, singuloque maculis magnis nigris. L. c. $3\frac{1}{2}$ -4 lin.

The Chontales specimens accord with those from Mexico (Orizaba, Teapa). Coll. Chevrolat.

Aeg. clathratus differs only in having the spots much larger, and the punctuation apparent.

Intermediate coxal line short but evident.

16. *Aegithus Jansonii*, sp. nov.

Breviter ovatus, convexus, ochraceus, capite antice impresso, cum thorace laevibus; hoc marginibus anguste lineisque tribus nigris (1 discoidali, 1 utrinque disci); scutello magno, testaceo, laevi; elytris subtiliter gemellato-punctato-striatis, interstitiis laevibus, margine suturaque anguste nigris, disco toto fusco, ochraceo-cincto. L. c. 4 lin.

Intermediate coxal line present.

17. *Aegithus cardinalis*, Chevr. Col. Mex. Cent. I., fasc. 4 (1834) - Lac. Mon. Erot., p. 284 (1842) - *Aegithus rufipennis*, Chevr. Col. Mex. Cent. I., fasc. 4 (1834) - Lac. Mon. Erot., p. 284 (1842).

Late ovatus, ater, elytris corallinis laevibus. L. c. 4-6 lin. Mexico, Teapa; Costa Rica; Panama; Nicaragua.

var. *A*, capite thoraceque supra infraque nigris=*rufipennis*, Chevr.

var. *B*, capite thoraceque rufo, hoc tertia discoidali nigra, prosterno nigro, epipleuris rufis=*cardinalis*, Chevr.

var. *C*, capite thoraceque rufo, prosterno et epipleuris rufis=*meridionalis*, Crotch.

I consider these three forms referable to one species, though the variation in outline is considerable.

The intermediate coxal line is well marked.

The Chontales specimens all pertain to var. *C* (*Aeg. meridionalis*, Crotch).

18. *Aegithus clavicornis*, Linn. Syst. Nat. Ed. x., p. 370 (*Chrysomela*) (1758) - *Coccinella surinamensis*, Linn. Cent. Ins., p. 10 (1763) - *Aegithus surinamensis*, Lac. Mon. Erot., p. 285 (1842).

Specimens in my Collection are from Costa Rica, Columbia, Ecuador, Amazons, Brazil.

Distinct by its smooth elytra, which together with the abdomen are testaceous. Linnaeus's *clavicornis* was described from Rolander's specimens, which were again described by De Geer, so that the identity of the two is certain.

Intermediate coxal line distinct.

BRACHYSPHÆNUS, Lac. Mon. Erot., p. 296 (1842).

(Type — ?)

This genus is still a magazine of different forms, but I have not found any good characters whereby to separate them. *Sphenoxus* and *Typocephalus* appear to me good genera. *B. irroratus* and *B. multinotatus* are *Priotelis*, and others are mixed up in the several sections.

19. *Brachysphænus zonula*, sp. nov.

B. circulo proximus, sed humeris late nigris, annulo flavo antice posticeque denticulato distinctis. L. c. 3 lin.

Ecuador (Buckley).

I cannot separate the single specimen from Chontales now before me from the species characterized above taken in Ecuador by Mr. Buckley. It differs only in that the yellow margin extends up to the shoulder, instead of obliquely across as in Mr. Buckley's specimens.

20. *Brachysphænus nigropictus*, Lac. Mon. Erot., p. 387 (1842).

Occurs likewise in Venezuela. Coll. Chevrolat.

EROTYLUS, Fab. Syst. Ent., p. 123 (1775).

(Type *Cocc. gigantea*, Linn.)

This genus seems to me somewhat difficult to characterize, as Lacordaire has comprised species with the rostrum parallel and coarctate in it.

All are of tolerably large size, and more or less visibly gemellate-punctate.

21. *Erotylus Nicaraguae*, sp. nov.

Ovatus, niger, nitidus, thorace punctato, elytris laete flavis, sat regulariter gemellato-striatis, maculis nigris tessellatis, margine epipleurisque rufis. L. c. $7\frac{1}{4}$ lin.

The geminate striæ are very closely approximate, and separate the black spots from each other by yellow lines.

CYPHEROTYLUS, gen. nov.

(Type *Chrysom gibbosa*, Linn.)

The genus appears to me more defined than any of those with a narrower rostrum, except perhaps *Homæotelus*. The uniform coloration (black, elytra pale whitish, with impressed irregular black dots), the thorax margined at the base, the interstitial punctuation hardly apparent, the sexual differences, all combine to separate it at once.

The acute gibbosity of *C. sphacelatus* fades gradually into the convex form of *C. Goryi*.

22. *Cypherotylus dromedarius*, Lac. Mon. Erot., p. 455 (*Erotylus*) (1842).

This does not differ sufficiently to entitle it to specific distinction; the elytral punctures are rather finer, and the median black spot is larger.

23. *Cypherotylus impressopunctatus*, sp. nov.

Niger, paulo abovatus, acute convexus (sed haud gibbosus); thorace lateribus rectis, antice angustato, basi

impresso, subtiliter parcellissime punctulato; elytris ochraceis, punctis majoribus nigris irregulariter impressis, apice ipso nigro. L. c. $9\frac{1}{2}$ lin.

Allied to *C. stillatus*, Kirsch (Berl. Ent. Zeit. ix., p. 100), from Bogota, but with smaller punctures on the elytra. The male has thickened femora and an anal tuft.

24. *Cypherotylus Jansoni*, sp. nov.

C. Goryi simillimus, et forte ejus mera varietas geographica. Differt tantum elytris fere immaculatis, fascia media tantum maculis 2 parvis indicata. L. c. $11\frac{1}{2}$ lin.

ZONARIUS (*Hope*), Lac. Mon. Erot., p. 468 (1842).

(Type *X. xanthomelas*, Lac.)

Hope's genus contained the species now referred to it, but his characters were taken from a *Pæcilesthes*; it is doubtful, therefore, whether his name ought to be allowed to stand.

It is closely allied to *Erotylus*, but the rostrum is longer and more narrowed at the base. It is confined to Mexico and Central and South America.

25. *Zonarius Jansoni*, sp. nov.

Z. zebra affinis, sed elytris fascia prima utrinque abbreviata (macula oblonga formante), fascia secunda augustiore, ad suturam interrupta, postice paulo lobata differt. L. c. 5 lin.

This adds another to the little group of species allied to *Z. zebra*.

SCAPHIDOMORPHUS (*Hope*), Rev. Zool. 1841, p. 111.

(Type *Chrysom. quinque-punctata*, Linn.)

This differs but little from *Zonarius*, yet it is easy to recognize it by the shape of the thorax, the emargination being circular as in *Megaprotus*.

Erichson (Arch. f. Nat. xiii., p. 177) has separated the 2nd section—without a carinate prosternum—under the name of *Prepopharus*, but I do not see that this is necessary.

The males have not the pilose spot on the first ventral segment, and in other respects it is very near *Brachysphænus*.

26. *Scaphidomorphus xanthomelas*, *sp. nov.*

Ovatus, testaceus, sublævis, capitis vertice, antennis, geniculis, tibiis, tarsisque nigris; thorace fascia abbreviata antica, margine basali (utrinque recurva) fere ad angulos posticos, nigris; elytris læte flavis, margine externo tenue, fasciis duabus utrinque abbreviatis, paulo obliquis (1 subbasilari, 1 in medio), maculaque triangulari (puncto fusco includente) nigris. L. c. $4\frac{1}{2}$ lin.

HOMOEOTELUS (*Hope*), Rev. Zool. 1841, p. 112 (scripsit *Omoiotelus*).

(Type *Erot. testaceus*, F.)

27. *Homocotelus confusus*, *sp. nov.*

H. testaceo affinis, sed minor, magis depressus, regulariter ovatus, thorace scabro-punctato, scutello rufo, elytris haud flavo-marginatis, femoribus apice extus, tibiis tarsisque nigris. L. c. $5\frac{1}{2}$ - $6\frac{1}{2}$ lin.

The above diagnosis is drawn up from a specimen from Guatemala, with which the Chontales examples coincide exactly, as do likewise others extant in my collection from Costa Rica, in the specimens from Venezuela the femora are entirely red.

28. *Homocotelus Jansoni*, *sp. nov.*

H. mexicano affinis sed corpore abrupte ovato, antice posticeque magis acuminato, colore læte aurantiaco, (scutello nigro), thorace longiore, antennis longioribus, interstitiisque elytrorum distinctius punctulatis facile distinguendus. L. c. $4\frac{1}{4}$ lin.